LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listing of Claims in the Application.

1.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is at least 1.1:1.

17. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is at least 1.3:1.

18. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is at least 1.7:1.

19. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is up to 5:1.

20. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is up to 2.6:1.

21. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the ratio M:Fe for the compound is up to 2.4:1.

22. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the additional metal comprises calcium.

23. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the additional metal comprises magnesium.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which the compound additionally contains at least one of sulphate, chloride and oxide.

26. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43, in which the compound is obtained as precipitate from a solution of a mixture of metallic salts.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein the precipitate is unaged.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein the precipitate is washed and unaged.

29-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously presented) A method for treating hyperphosphataemia, in an animal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said animal, a therapeutically effective amount of a phosphate-binding, mixed metal compound which is free of aluminum and contains iron (III) and an additional metal M selected from the group comprising magnesium, calcium, lanthanum and cerium.

44. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which said compound has a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30% by weight, as measured by any of the following methods (1) or (2), over a pH range of 3 to 7.

(1) adding 1 gram of said mixed metal compound to 25 ml of 40 mmol l^{-1} sodium phosphate buffer solution, homogenizing and gently agitating at room temperature for 30 minutes, centrifuging at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes, filtering through 0.22 μm millipore filter and measuring the soluble phosphate in the supernatant thus produced;

(2) adding 1 gram of said mixed metal compound to 25 ml of 20 mmol l^{-1} sodium phosphate buffer solution, homogenizing and gently agitating at room temperature for 30 minutes, centrifuging at 3000 rpm for 5 minutes, filtering through 0.22 μm millipore filter and measuring the soluble phosphate in the supernatant thus produced.

45. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which said metal compound contains hydroxyl and/or carbonate ions.

46. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 43 in which said compound has a hydrotalcite type structure.

47. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 44 in which said compound has a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30% by weight of the total weight of phosphate present as measured by method (1) or by method (2) over a pH range of 2 to 8.

48-63. (Cancelled)